

Testimony to speak to the Board of Health Resolution for a Vaccine Passport

Montgomery County Council Meeting Tuesday, Jan_25_2022

Generally individual rights specify that, "The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs or impede their efforts to obtain it. Each is the proper guardian of his own health, whether bodily or mental or spiritual. Those who support individual rights are not motivated by an insensitivity to the plight and suffering of others, but rather by the recognition that in granting each of us the freedom to pursue our own good, social cooperation, the division of labor and a prosperous society emerge in a bottom-up manner; and thus, the ability to help others also improves. For without the wealth-generating mechanism of freedom, all the good intentions in the world will not clothe, house, or feed the poor." — John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*

Collectivists claim the opposite. An emphasis on the rights of the individual, rather than on the greater good, tends to inhibit social cooperation and promote an atomized population in which every man and woman is an island left to fend for themselves.

But here collectivists have it backwards. We are naturally social animals and so the atomization of individuals only results when a government, under the guise of the greater good, is granted the power to enforce social isolation. Or else to sow the seeds of fear and suspicion amongst friends and neighbors. Atomization is the intentional division and fragmentation of individuals for the purpose of depriving us of meaningful ties to one another.

In his classic study of 20th century collectivist political systems, the medical doctor Joost Meerloo noted that, "Behind the iron curtain the most prominent complaint in the totalitarian system was the feeling of mental isolation. The individual feels alone and continually on the alert. There is only mutual suspicion." Joost Meerloo, *The Rape of the Mind*

Carl Jung, who lived through the totalitarianism which swept across mid-20th century Europe, likewise observed, "the mass state has no intention of promoting mutual understanding and the relationship of man to man. It strives for atomization, for the psychic isolation of the individual. The best way to promote social cooperation and a prosperous society is not through top-down centralized control but to remove the clamps of control and to let individuals make their own choices with respect to their own lives." C. G. Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

What you, as the members of the Montgomery County Council are proposing, in this resolution to adopt a Vaccine Passport Mandate, is in direct violation of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, which protects all our rights as individuals to choose. I charge you to consider carefully your actions around this resolution. You are treading on dangerous waters that have the potential to harm us, your constituents and undermine your authority and legitimacy as a governing body.

The right of the individual will prevail.

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